

AMIAA News

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The First Armenian Evangelical Church of Uruguay in worship

PREACHING THE WHOLE GOSPEL

— M. B. Janbazian



Rev. M.B. Janbazian

In Lyon, France, a university professor stays until 2:00 a.m. in his crammed study to complete his editorial work on the next issue of an Armenian Christian publication financed, in part, by the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). He is a volunteer who generously gives of his time and talents to this publication because, each month, it takes the gospel message to thousands of readers worldwide.

In Valence, another city in France, an overworked pastor, who along with his regular pastoral duties also ministers to two mission churches in neighboring towns, leads a weekly radio program through which he reaches thousands of listeners with the Word of God. Since the program is broadcast live, he has to be physically present at the radio station every Sunday at 8:30 a.m. After the program, he will rush to his church to lead the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Service.

Further south, in the city of Marseille, a medical doctor closes his clinic for a whole day and joins a group of volunteers to clean up the rooms and facilities of a Christian camp in preparation of the coming summer camp programs. He is the chairman of the Camp Committee and, in addition to his time, he also generously gives of his financial resources to the camp program which serves as an effective evangelism ministry to hundreds of children, youths and adults each year.

In Leuven, Belgium, a Christian young

man is eagerly studying and preparing for his exams, after which he will complete his first year as a student at the Institute Biblique Belge. He is looking forward with enthusiasm to the completion of his three-year training, after which he will serve as an AMAA missionary among immigrants from his native country of Turkey.

In Brussels a group of nearly 30 believers, all recent immigrants from Turkey, huddle together in the modest home of a young Christian couple for their weekly evening prayer meeting. As there are few chairs in the room, almost all of them sit on the floor. Their spirit-filled songs and prayers reflect the contentment they feel in being a group of Christian believers who are encouraged and supported by an Armenian missionary association.

In Athens, Greece, a young pastor is enthusiastically involved in setting up a sports field for youth and a playground for children. His effort is part of the new ministry of the local church to reach out to hundreds of youth and children of refugee families that have recently arrived from war-torn and economically depressed countries in the Middle East. In the same city, a medical doctor regularly volunteers his services to render much needed health care to impoverished refugees.

In Buenos Aires, Argentina, a retired teacher is working on the production of Christian tracts that are made available to scores of churches and thousands of readers around the world.

In Uruguay, a dental surgeon, who recently graduated from a theological seminary and was ordained as a minister, faithfully serves as the full-time pastor of a local church which had not had a pastor for the past 30 years. In the same economically depressed country, a young man distributes, on behalf of the AMAA, relief aid checks to more than ten poor families and needy elderly people. This relief ministry is the result of a special partnership with an Armenian charitable organization, through which the AMAA provides regular relief assistance to 30 poor families in different South American countries.

These were some of the many AMAA ministries that were once again witnessed by the Rev. Dr. G.H. Chopourian, and the Executive Director of the AMAA, The Rev. Moses B. Janbazian, during their Board-authorized visit last month to the mission projects of the AMAA in South America and Europe.

These endeavors are but a small part of the total outreach of the AMAA, which includes a wide variety of mission and service programs. At its 70th year, the AMAA is involved in supporting or fully funding well over ninety different church, evangelism, social service, educational, publication and relief projects in the Armenian communities of 15 countries. All these endeavors are aimed at fulfilling both the Great Commission and the Great Commandment issued by Jesus Christ:

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" Mark 16:15.

"Love one another as I have loved you" John 15:12.

These verses present, in a nutshell, the guidelines for the work of the AMAA. The leadership of the AMAA directs the work of the Association with the firm belief that the preaching of the gospel of Christ is inseparable from showing the Christ-ordained love to the needy, the underprivileged and the downtrodden. As the person of Jesus Christ represents the unity of His divine and human nature, evangelism and social concern constitute the totality of Christian missions. To emphasize evangelism and discard the physical, material and social needs of people would be a caricature of the mission for which we are called as Christians. On the other hand, focusing only on social concerns and neglecting the declaration of the good news about forgiveness of sins and newness of life through Jesus Christ, will also make a caricature of a mission ministry.

Throughout the past 70 years, our members and friends have shared in our efforts to fulfill both the Great Commission and the Great Commandment, and thanks to their continued support, the AMAA will continue its mission of preaching the whole gospel of Jesus Christ.

IMAGES OF AN ARMENIAN WOMAN

(Continued from last issue)

— Joyce Abdulian

Woman Parliamentarian

Let us focus now on the year 1918 and with the writing of the constitution for the small Republic of Armenia. Our woman has been given the right to vote. (Only in 1920 did the U.S. allow this.) This tiny republic also has an 80 member parliament. One member is a woman! How remarkable! The picture of our Armenian woman is becoming clearer and in sharper focus.

Now, let us turn to the Armenian woman who sought to broaden her horizons. She, in many cases, came to the U.S., leaving behind mother, father, and extended family. Have you ever thought of the courage this took? Going to a strange land, never seeing your parents for perhaps forty years or more? Now that air travel has diminished the size of the world, we seem bewildered at the thought of having family across the oceans and not seeing them for decades, and hearing of their death. . . never being with them to share their joys and sorrows, and having them share our lives. . . Sad, but this happened all the time.

Granted, most women came to a familiar family or relative, but put yourself into their place. Can you see sending your beloved child to another world, knowing full well you will never see him again?

A Strange New Land

Now our Armenian woman is in a strange new land, America. She has arrived most probably at the height of the depression. Everyone is struggling again for survival. Once again she is called upon to gather her courage, forget her pride, and move on, always turning to God for inner and physical strength.

Our scene now turns to a typical Fresno town. Our Armenian woman is living in a home with perhaps two other families. The men are thankful for any type of work. The mothers must care for their young and be resourceful in providing for their table.

Our Armenian woman is not married yet. She finds work in a packing house. This, by today's standards, would be a sweat shop. She has no union to protect her. Her hands swell and bleed as she

packs the hot fruit. She is determined to work as fast as she can because she receives pay for each piece of work. Before leaving for work, she rises early, has her prayer time, and kneads one large pan of dough. She rushes home in the evening to bake the bread for the evening meal. But her day is not over. Off she runs to choir practice at the church that was founded by the first arrivees. The next night, as tired as she may be, she attends Bible study presided over by the minister's wife or another Christian leader. (A whole book could be written about the role played by our Armenian ministers' wives.)

Saturday finds our woman preparing the house and meal for Sunday. None will cook on the Lord's day. Sunday morning she gathers together her self-respect and goes to God's house. Here she can open her soul to the Lord and feel the comradeship of friends who feel no need to talk of the hardships past or present. They have formed a group, a family of educated, uneducated, poor, farmer, landowner, shopkeeper. . . all worshipping

The Inspirational Corner

I'LL GO MAYBE

I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord,
Real service is what I desire.
I'll sing a solo any time, dear Lord,
But please don't ask me to sing in the choir.

I'll do what you want me to do, dear Lord.
I like to see things come to pass.
But don't ask me to teach boys and girls, O Lord,
I'd rather just stay in my class.

I'll do what you want me to do, dear Lord,
I long for the kingdom to thrive.
I'll give you my dimes and my nickels, dear Lord,
But please don't ask me to tithe.

I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord.
I'll say what you want me to say;
But I'm busy just now with myself, dear Lord;
I'll help you some other day.

— Selected

THE WEAVER

My life is but a weaving
Between My Lord and me,
I cannot choose the colors
He worketh steadily.

Oftimes he weaveth sorrow,
And I in foolish pride
Forget he sees the upper
And I the underside.

Not 'til the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly
Shall God unroll the canvas
And explain the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful
In the weaver's skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern he has planned.

— Author Unknown



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God in their beautiful language, and in some cases Turkish, and then as the first generation Americans are born, in English as well.

Our Armenian woman probably teaches Sunday school class before the Church service. She then sings and worships God in her beloved Armenian. She is loved and respected by her friends. The warmth and comradeship cannot be described. It sustains her for Monday morning when she must assume the role of immigrant, with all of its attendant ramifications. She is looked upon as a foreigner. Her language is not good enough, her appearance possibly strange.

Improves English

Now our Armenian woman is aware of the necessity to improve her English. She takes advantage of the evening adult schools. After her hard day at work she still finds time to accept the gift of a free education from this beautiful country.

Our Armenian woman meets the man whom she is later to marry. Sometimes the man tells her, "Your father would not have let me see you in our homeland because I was from a poor family." But long ago the Armenian woman has laid aside her thoughts of the past and is willing to work side by side to form a new life, in a new land, with new, and yet unknown opportunities.

Her children blossom and grow in ways she is amazed to see. If you'll allow me an aside... their health was guarded by the early Armenian doctors who so generously gave of their time and talents. They served this new community selflessly. They were called upon to administer medical care when they knew there was no way they could be paid. Maybe they were given a chicken or some fruit from the farm. These men were indeed the unsung heroes of that time. Our Armenian woman would never have allowed her family to take charity, as it was called then. Everything she received was by the sweat of her brow. Nothing was given to her, except unlimited opportunity.

Her children are now attending public schools. With her broken English, in many cases, she does her best to help her child in this new environment. Chances are her child struggles in school because his language is Armenian. This is his first exposure to English. He stumbles, but our Armenian mother picks him up. She goes

to the public library, borrows books, and reads and reads to him. She wants to help him succeed.

America Vs. Roots

Our Armenian mother wants to become involved with her child's life. She becomes part of the PTA. She attends potluck dinners with other student's families. She probably brings *sarma* as her contribution. Now it is known as a gourmet dish, but then it was looked upon strangely. She helps the Red Cross fold bandages during wartime. Soon, her children excel in school. They teach her about the American way of life, while she in turn continues to remind them of their roots. She makes sure they are involved in their church's activities. They attend Christian Endeavor or ACYO. They become leaders of youth groups. She encourages them to read books about their ancestors, and to attend Saturday Armenian school. She organizes clothes drives to send used clothing to poor families in the old country. She sends what small amount of money she can glean from her income to send to the Armenian schools still helping Armenian students.

Our Armenian woman begins to see the fruits of her labors. She attends the graduations of her children. She watches many of them receive honors for their achievements. She sees them aspire to higher education and become leaders and professionals of our society.

Today's Armenian Woman

Let us move on. We have come to the present day Armenian woman. It is difficult to distinguish her from any other Armenian woman. She is alert, educated, compassionate, not content with mediocrity. She may be the president of a charity, leader of a social service center, a Sunday School superintendent, an author, historian, musician, doctor, dentist, lawyer. I could go on and on to describe how the Armenian American woman of today serves her family and community.

I find this current image of an Armenian woman so unique and meaningful. Where else do you find a governor of a state in America who has a mother whose beginnings are described by the family of our Armenian woman? She speaks the language of her people and her persecutor, yet she came to this country

and helped her children utilize and appreciate all the best this great land has to offer. She also encouraged her children to give back to this country in some measure what has been given them.

When our Governor acknowledges his mother and wife, as he so graciously does at all functions, and expresses his faith in God, he is touching the very soul of what our Armenian woman has become, a lady who has built upon her past, and yet has gained much from the new, and has continued to grow personally, and encourage her children to grow as well.

My husband being *Kessabtzi* and I being *Aintapsi* always tease one another. But all kidding aside, one day four and one half years ago when our governor was elected, his picture along with that of his wife, was on the front page of the L.A. Times. I jokingly told my husband about how great it was to see two *Aintapsies* on the front page of the L.A. Times. But seriously, this scene was very meaningful to me. It exemplifies all we have said today about the Armenian woman. Two generations back, the ancestors of this pair in the paper lived in a country where they were relatively comfortable... looking forward to a life with their family, were thrown into the genocide, thrusting them out of their familiar surroundings into a new land of hard work and opportunity... America.

As I look about this room today, I see many family clusters at each table. But more importantly, I see one large family represented. Each one of us has either descended from or has interacted with the Armenian woman I have presented images from. How almost eerie... Don't you feel her presence here? Can you not see her influence represented in each one of us? Her strength, pathos, courage, vision, spirit, fortitude... all are felt here as we collectively represent... THE ARMENIAN WOMAN.

IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED more than one copy of the AMAA NEWS, will you pass it along to a friend.

Thank you

REV. G.H. CHOPOURIAN'S VISIT TO MONTEVIDEO AND BUENOS AIRES

Last April, at the request of the Board of Directors of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), Rev. Dr. G.H. Chopourian, Honorary Executive Director of AMAA, spent two weeks in Uruguay and Argentina to evaluate the AMAA-supported mission and service programs and recommend ways to strengthen the life and witness of the Armenian Evangelical communities in those two countries. Dr. Chopourian divided his time between Montevideo, Uruguay, and Buenos Aires, Argentina, where the Armenian communities are concentrated. In both cities Dr. and Mrs. Chopourian were warmly welcomed and treated as honored guests.

Dr. Chopourian's first stop was Montevideo, Uruguay, where the AMAA supports the ministry of the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Uruguay, located in a building purchased by the Association in 1975. The pastor of the church is The Rev. Obed Boyadjian, D.D.S., who, after completing his AMAA-supported theological training, was ordained into the Christian ministry last year. Dr. Chopourian found many encouraging signs of growth in Rev. Boyadjian's church.

The purpose of Dr. Chopourian's visit to Montevideo was to prepare an appropriate budget for the church, to develop a stewardship program to help meet this budget and to address a number of issues related to the ministry of the pastor and the congregation.

Before Dr. Chopourian left Montevideo, he had helped prepare a church budget, organized a stewardship campaign to elicit pledges, and reorganized church records and regulations. Upon his return, he made the following recommendations to the AMAA Board of Directors regarding the Montevideo church:

Make a substantial annual contribution to the church's budget; send the church a used minibus for the purpose of transporting Sunday School students; support a local Armenian radio station in return for periodic time slots for a Christian program; and consider a renovation program to enlarge the



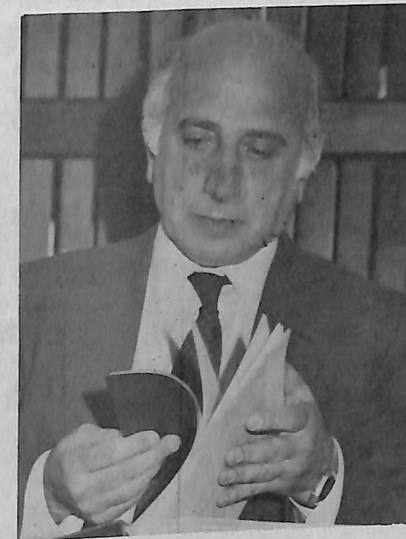
church's sanctuary and improve its appearance.

The second week of Dr. Chopourian's trip was spent in Buenos Aires, Argentina, discussing matters of mutual interest with representatives of the Armenian Missionary Association of Argentina. This branch of the Armenian Missionary Association of America has a membership list of about 150. The cultural and religious activities of the Association are held in an AMAA-owned building which was purchased in 1975.

Dr. Chopourian offered the AMAA Board of Directors the following recommendations regarding its Argentina branch:

Hire a secretary for the Argentina office; authorize needed repairs to the AMAA building in Buenos Aires; provide a contingency fund to be used by the Argentina branch for emergency relief assistance; and sponsor the special ministry of Mr. Kullujian, a local writer of religious tracts.

Dr. Chopourian was distressed by the economic and financial conditions he found in both Uruguay and Argentina. One problem is inflation. In Buenos Aires, for example, the Argentine austral that was worth one U.S. dollar 18 months ago was now worth less than \$0.15. During the same interval, the Uruguayan



The officers of the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Uruguay, clockwise: Mr. Loutfi Kouyoumdjian, Moderator; The Rev. Obed Boyadjian, D.D.S., Pastor; Mr. Housep Kherlopian, Treasurer.

peso had dropped to less than half of its former value. Another problem is that wages, which are generally low to begin with, rarely keep up with inflation. This makes everything more expensive for wage-earners.

Considering these circumstances, Dr. Chopourian found the efforts of the Armenian Evangelical families in these countries to earn a living and maintain their churches to be worthy of our respect and unreserved support.

ALICE ODIAN KASPARIAN HONORED

On April 14, the Boston AGBU Ladies Chapter gave a luncheon in honor of Alice Odian Kasparian at the New England AGBU Center in Watertown, MA.

A delicious lunch was served following Rev. Vartan Hartunian's benediction. Then Rev. Father Papken Maksoudian prayed for the souls of the victims of the 1915 Genocide. Chairlady, Mrs. Hamest Atamian welcomed the guests and introduced Mrs. Arsine Aharonian, president of United Methodist Church Women Organizations of Boston, MA, to present the guest of honor.

Mrs. Aharonian enumerated the highlights of the life of Alice Odian Kasparian who, as a survivor of the Armenian Genocide, had arrived with her parents and sister in this country just before Thanksgiving, 1919. She emphasized her qualifications and her pioneering achievements in professional, literary, cultural, social and artistic endeavors.

Mrs. Atamian then presented Mrs. Kasparian with a citation-plaque, while the audience gave her a standing ovation.

Deeply moved, Alice Odian Kasparian thanked the AGBU Ladies of Greater Boston for honoring her; the executive director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Rev. Moses Janbazian, who had flown from New Jersey to pay tribute to her; and Mr. and Mrs. Kichibay, who had come from Hartford, CT. Another out-of-town guest was Mrs. Mariam Davis of New Mexico, who had appeared as a survivor of the Genocide in Ted Bogosian's documentary, "An Armenian Journey."

Mrs. Kasparian stated that whatever she had achieved, whatever qualifications she had, she owed to her parents, to her education, to her church and to her friends. She praised the work of the AGBU and called upon everyone to support the Union. She said, "Any organization that promotes the perpetuation of our race, any institution that aims to preserve our identity deserves our support. We must keep alive our culture, our heritage, our language, if we want to exist in this world as Armenians."



From left: Mrs. Hamest Atamian, Alice Odian Kasparian and Mrs. Arsine Aharonian.

Special addresses were made by Rev. Janbazian; Rev. Hartunian; Rev. Maksoudian; Mrs. Eva Medzorian, New England AGBU District Committee chairlady; Mrs. Dorothy Kichibay, an artist and member of Daughters of Vartan; Mrs. Sandra Jurikian, NAASR administrative director and executive secretary, who read a citation and presented a book to the guest. Similarly, Mrs. Flora Gopoian, representing the Vahan Tekeyan School Committee, made a speech and presented to Mrs.

Kasparian a book. Mrs. Mary Kouyoumjian, Board member of AWWA, Inc., read a citation. Other gifts were presented by Mrs. Grace Hartunian and Mrs. Meline Demirjian. A special letter of thanks and congratulations was sent by the former director of Vahan Tekeyan School in Beirut, Yervant Babayan of California.

Mrs. Julia Zerounian, the charming popular artist, accompanied on the piano by her husband, Sarkis Zerounian, sang Armenian songs.

AESSC HAS A NEW DIRECTOR

After almost four years of outstanding service and leadership, Ms. Roseann E. Saliba recently resigned as a Director of the AMAA-supported Armenian Evangelical Social Service Center (AESSC) of Hollywood, CA. Ms. Zabel Alahydoian was selected by the AESSC Board to succeed Ms. Saliba, effective July 1988.

Ms. Saliba took office as Director of the Center in 1984. Her emphasis during her tenure was to make Christ more evident in the services of the Center.

The AESSC Board has assured the supporting agencies and churches of the Center that the Christian emphasis as well

as the professional quality of the Center's services to the Armenian refugee community will continue under the new Director.

Ms. Alahydoian is a member of the United Armenian Congregational Church of Hollywood, where she is currently serving as a Deaconess and is a member of the church choir. Her professional experience includes school and social work administration and counseling. Her work experience has been in both public and private education as well as in social work.

MEGUERDICH KARAGEUZIAN AND KRIKOR YOUMOUSHAKIAN ORDAINED INTO CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Messrs. Meguerdich Karageuzian and Krikor Youmoushakian, both of Beirut, Lebanon, were recently ordained into Christian Ministry by the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE). Mr. Karageuzian's ordination was held at the Emmanuel Armenian Evangelical Church of Nor Amanos in Bourj-Hamoud, Lebanon. Mr. Youmoushakian's ordination was at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Ashrafieh.

Both ministers are 1983 graduates from the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, Lebanon. Following their graduation, they served local churches as licensed preachers of the UAECNE. Rev. Karageuzian served the Emmanuel Church where he will be continuing his pastoral ministry. Rev. Youmoushakian served as the pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of Ekiz-Olouk and Keorkuneh in Kessab, Syria, until 1986, when he began his current pastoral



The newly-ordained Rev. Krikor Youmoushakian giving the Benediction at the conclusion of the service of his ordination.

ministry with the Ashrafieh Church.

We praise God for the ordination of these two dedicated young servants of the Lord, whose addition to the ranks of

our church leaders in the Near East inspires us with a renewed surge of admiration for the faithfulness and fruitful witness of our churches in the Near East.

DARAKJIAN'S WORKS PERFORMED BY GARDEN GROVE SYMPHONY

The Southern California premiere of Albert Darakjian's "Armenian Symphonic Dances" was performed by the Garden Grove Symphony on June 11, 1988.

Darakjian's work was guided by conductor Edward Peterson at the concert held at the Don Wash Auditorium in Garden Grove, CA.

Prior to the concert, an introduction to Darakjian's composition by Governor George Deukmejian was presented at the Garden Grove Community Center across from the auditorium, where guests were able to meet the composer.

Mr. Darakjian is not only a sensitive composer of inspiring music, but also a genuine Armenian Christian with an inspiring testimony of stewardship. He and his wife, Annabelle, are faithful and generous supporters of many worthy Armenian charitable causes, among which is the missionary outreach of the AMAA. Indeed, little known and perhaps



Mr. and Mrs. Albert Darakjian

not adequately recognized in Armenian circles, the Darakjians deserve the admiration and tribute of our community, which has always had a special place in their hearts and stewardship plans.

FORMER HOSTAGE REV. WEIR GUEST SPEAKER AT CALVARY CHURCH BANQUET

The Marriot Hotel was the setting on April 17, 1988, for the 62nd Anniversary Banquet of the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco (The Rev. Nishan Bakalian, Pastor).

Guest speaker was The Rev. Benjamin M. Weir, a former hostage in Lebanon and currently co-professor of Mission and Evangelism at San Francisco Theological Seminary. Rev. Weir and his wife, Carol, spent 32 years as missionaries in Lebanon, working in Christian Arab and Moslem communities as well as among Armenians. The Weirs have authored a book, "Hostage Bound — Hostage Free," which presents a moving reflection on their first-hand experience with the ongoing hostage crisis in Lebanon.

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VISITS CHURCHES IN NORTH AMERICA

One of the important duties related to the office of the Executive Director of the AMAA is to interpret the work of our Association, provide to our members and friends opportunities for mission education, and bring to the attention of our membership the needs, challenges and opportunities in our mission field. In pursuing this aspect of his responsibilities, our Executive Director, Rev. Moses B. Janbazian, during the past six months has travelled to various parts of the country and visited all but two of the Armenian Evangelical churches in the United States and Canada. His activities during those visits include preaching mission-oriented sermons from church pulpits; presenting updates on the life and ministry of the Association at missionary luncheons; speaking engagements with youth and other church groups; conferences with pastors, church councils and AMAA Chapters/Missions Committees; and personal contacts with active members and prospective supporters of the Association. The warmth and hospitality with which Rev. Janbazian was welcomed everywhere once again affirmed our churches' commitment to the mission of the AMAA, as well as our friends' growing interest in our missionary outreach. The pictures below show some of the supporting groups and friends visited by Rev. Janbazian.



First picture: The Executive Director with the officers of AEUNA and Rev. and Mrs. William Aintablin. Second picture: West Coast Board members of the AMAA. Third picture: Armenian Evangelical, Brotherhood and Nazarene pastors of the Los Angeles area.



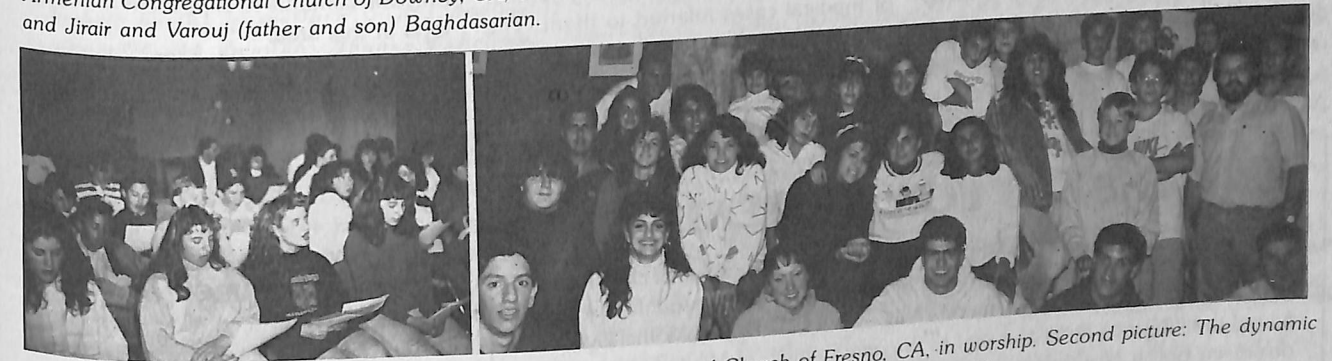
First picture: AMAA friends in the Bakersfield, CA, area following a special dinner at which Dr. Vahe Darakjian and the Executive Director spoke about the Armenian community in Lebanon. Second picture: Faithful and generous supporters of the AMAA—The three Puzants, (left to right) Haleblan, Hadidian and Gulesserian, with Mrs. Angele Gulesserian, Mrs. Beatrice Hadidian and Mr. and Mrs. George Beylerian. Third picture: Some of the members of the AMAA Friends—Peninsula Group.



First picture: A group of Musa Daghtzi members and friends of the AMAA in the San Francisco area. Second picture: The girls' basketball team of the Merdianian Armenian Evangelical School of Sherman Oaks, CA. Third picture: Members of the HYEM group of the Armenian Cilicia Cong'l Church of Altadena, CA., with their leader, Apo Ekmekjian.



First picture: Officers of AMAA Chapters/Church Mission Committees, from left: Arpi Keledjian, Chairman of the Missions Committee of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno, CA; Suzie Baghdikian, member, and Garbis Bedoyan, Chairman, of the Missions Committee of the United Armenian Congregational Church of Hollywood, CA; Jack Birebirian, Treasurer of the AMAA Chapter of the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church of Downey, CA; devoted members of the Missions and Outreach Committee of UACC, Zaven Demirjian and Jirair and Varouj (father and son) Baghdasarian.



First picture: The youth group of the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church of Fresno, CA, in worship. Second picture: The dynamic Senior High School youth group of the United Armenian Congregational Church of Hollywood, CA.



First picture: A group of faithful supporters of the AMAA and devoted members of the Armenian Cilicia Cong'l Church, from left: Mr. & Mrs. Henry Abajian, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Kaprielian, Mr. & Mrs. Seb Gertmenian and Mr. & Mrs. Souren Kalousdian. Second picture: Mr. Luther Eskijian and Rev. Janbazian with AMAA benefactor Mr. John Sheen of Altadena, CA. Third picture: Prayerful and generous supporters of AMAA's work, from left: Pete Garabedian, Mr. & Mrs. Gaspar Magarian, the Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Hagop Chakmakjian and Mr. & Mrs. Archie Mathson of Fresno, CA.



First picture: Some of the members of the Peninsula Group which supports the Child Education Program faithfully. Second picture: Musa Daghtzi friends of the AMAA in the home of Dr. & Mrs. Hagop Panossian of Tarzana, CA. Third picture: The untiring ladies who organized and served a well attended Missionary Luncheon following an AMAA Sunday Worship Service at the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco.

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A black and white portrait of a middle-aged man with a receding hairline, wearing glasses and a mustache. He is smiling and dressed in a white collared shirt and a dark tie. The background is a mottled grey.

Vahe loved the Lord and His church. He served as a trustee at the U.A.C.C. and attended services regularly. For the last eight years, his job separated him from this community, but on the occasion of each returning visit, he eagerly looked forward to Sundays to attend church services.

His untimely passing was a great shock to the family, friends, and relatives. He will be sorely missed and his beautiful memory will be cherished forever.

MAGDALENE MANOUKIAN

Magdalene Sarafimidou was born on June 1, 1897, in Urgub, Central Turkey, to Greek parents. She was the middle child of three daughters. Her father, Ohannis (John), was a devout member of the Greek Orthodox church. One day he and his cousins found a Bible in the prayer room of their church. They began to read the Book eagerly and, with great joy, went to the priest and asked him to teach them from the Bible. This request triggered the anger of the priest, who confiscated the Bible and told Magdalene's father never to darken the church door again. He was thrown out of the Greek Orthodox Church and his three daughters were denied the privilege of attending the church school. Not long after, however, inspired by the encouragement of Protestant missionaries, Ohannis made his house the worshipping place for the first Protestant believers in his community. Their living quarters housed the first Evangelical school in that area. Shortly afterwards, Ohannis died suddenly and Magdalene's mother became a widow in her early twenties.

Young Olga, Magdalene's mother, raised her three daughters in the fear of the Lord. She provided for their needs by working in a mission hospital. She prayed for them constantly and God answered her prayers to the fourth generation—her three daughters were educated in missionary colleges and then married wonderful persons: a minister, a pharmacist, and a doctor. Magdalene married Dr. Minas Manoukian, who was Catholic. He became a born-again Christian after he attended the American University of Beirut and joined the Armenian Evangelical Church. The Manoukians first settled in Jounieh, Lebanon; then moved to the mountains of Lebanon. Magdalene became the right-hand of her husband, who served seven villages. In those days there were no paved roads, so the doctor had to travel on a mule, responding to the call of his duty day and night, storm or snow.

The Manoukians were blessed with two pairs of twins: John and Manuel and George and Georgette. These four children were raised in the village of Baskinta, in a house without electricity or modern conveniences of life. But Magdalene courageously endured these and other hardships. The Manoukian's sacrificial service of 35 years to the mountain people of Lebanon left its indelible spiritual mark on the population of the area. Dr. Manoukian not only cared for the bodies of his patients, but tried to open their eyes to the

truth found in the Word of God. He never entered a sick person's house without first praying at the door.

The "Armenian doctor," as he was called, did not ask for a fee for his professional services. He sensed how poor the villagers were, so he accepted whatever they had to offer: a bag of charcoal, eggs, garden produce, chickens. As time went by, Arab doctors came to serve the villagers. But the mountain people preferred the "Armenian doctor." He had become one of them, giving his heart and life to heal the hurts of the people he had come to love.

Magdalene likewise had a benevolent influence on many lives. She loved her children and their families with a practical love. She bore witness by serving lovingly and giving of her best. She never had an idle moment. She loved to read books and her mind was alert to the very end.

During her last two years, she was confined to a convalescent hospital, but she was healthy spiritually. She expressed her thankfulness to God by singing hymns she had memorized in her teens or reciting psalms.

Praised be God for the life of this miraculous woman of faith. Her life will be a source of courage and inspiration for her four children, their spouses, grandchildren and many relatives.

VICTORIA MAGZANIAN

On March 21, 1988, Victoria Magzanian passed away at the age of 82.

Victoria was born in Betias, a village in Musa Dag, Turkey, one of seven children consisting of four daughters and three sons. Her father died when she was four years old, and in 1915 the family fled to Syria to escape Turkish persecution and atrocities. Like many others, they lived in a single room and shared whatever food could be found. Within four years, Victoria saw the death of her mother, two sisters, one brother and countless other nieces, nephews and cousins.

In 1919, at the age of 13, Victoria and her older brother returned to their native Musa Dag when Armenians were permitted to rebuild their homes and plant new fields. She married Samuel Magzanian in 1924 and they lived a very happy life, being blessed with three daughters, until their life was again interrupted in 1939, when once more they had to flee the country, leaving behind all that they had worked so hard to rebuild. Most of her relatives then settled in Soviet Armenia, Syria and Lebanon, as did her family until 1951. During this time, one daughter died and another was born.

Finally, on March 23, 1951, the Magzanian family arrived in the United States. Victoria adopted that day as her birthday since neither

she nor any living relatives knew when her real birthday was. The family settled in northern New Jersey and renewed contacts with many old friends.

In 1983, eager to be near their grandchild, Victoria and her husband moved to the State of Maryland. Sam died in 1986 at age 97.

Her family and those who knew Victoria remember her as a generous and caring person. She enjoyed life, in spite of the sufferings she had endured in her earlier years, and lived it as a genuine Christian, always with a sense of humor. On March 23rd, the family said a final good-bye and Happy Birthday to Victoria Magzanian, one of the last survivors of the Musa Dag generation.

Mrs. Magzanian is survived by three daughters: Alberta, Anna and Louis; and one grandson, Alex.

VICTORIA ASADORIAN

Victoria Asadorian, of Cranston, RI, passed away on February 24, 1988, after a long illness. She was the wife of the late Nushan Asadorian.

Born in Harpoot, Armenia, Mrs. Asadorian was the youngest of the four children of Kevork and Elmas (Toutounjian) Boyajian. The family came to America in 1905 and settled in Providence, RI, where Mrs. Asadorian attended public schools and graduated from English High School in 1917.

During World War I, she was a secretary in the War Office in the Rhode Island State House until Armistice was declared. Thereafter, until her marriage, she was employed as a secretary at the Shepard Company Department Store in Providence.

She was an active member of the Euphrates Evangelical Church, serving as a Sunday School teacher and member of the choir. In 1922, she married Nushan Asadorian, a jewelry manufacturer, and, at that time, joined the St. Sahag St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church. Over the years, both Mr. and Mrs. Asadorian devoted themselves to serving many causes and organizations in the Armenian community.

Mrs. Asadorian was a past president of the United Educational Society of Harpoot. She also served as chairwoman of the Ladies Aid Society of St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Church.

She was a Charter Member of the Daughters of Vartan when it was established in Providence in 1946, and served as its Matron in 1948 and 1949. She was an active Board Member of the AGBU Women's Auxiliary in Providence and was honored as AGBU Mother of the Year in 1976. She shared with her husband a deep concern for the education of Armenian young people, and a sincere wish to fund a modest college scholarship for deserving students.

Mrs. Asadorian was deeply respected for the work she undertook in the community, but she remained modest and unassuming. She leaves behind, in the hearts of her family and friends, a memory of a cheerful, loving person of genuine kindness and sincerity.

She is survived by two daughters: Mrs. Grant Dulgarian (Florence) and Mrs. Peter Kougasian (Betty); four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

NEVART ENDRIGIAN

Mrs. Nevart Endrigian of Drexel Hill, PA, entered her eternal rest on March 1, 1988. The wake was on Thursday evening, March 3, and the Funeral Service the following day, with a burial at Arlington Cemetery of Drexel Hill. The Rev. G.H. Chopourian, a longtime friend of Nevart and her three children, officiated. Nevart was a genuine believer and a happy person despite many trials and tribulations. She had a winning smile and was a "winner", as the large number present at the wake and service testified.

Her daughter-in-law, Joyce Paregian, prepared the following statement on behalf of the Endrigian-Paregian families:

Nevart Mermanjian-Paregian-Endrigian was born on September 28, 1907, in Yosgat, Turkey. She was one of six children of Haroutouin and Bernard Dermanjian.

Orphaned at an early age as her parents fell victim to the Turkish atrocities, she kept in close contact with her sisters and brother. Her first sister, Hripsime, came to teach in the United States and then sent for the second sister, Pyladzo. Through her sister Hripsime, Nevart was introduced to and later married Krikor Paregian in 1928 in Havana, Cuba. Since Krikor was a U.S. citizen, it enabled her quick and easy entry into his country. She was reunited with her sisters and their families and soon she and Krikor began their own family with sons Philip and Moushegh.

The depression years were difficult. Whenever she had the time, Nevart helped her husband operate a Mom and Pop store on Market Street. In 1939, Krikor, her husband, passed away and she had the responsibility of earning a living and caring for two active young boys. Through the help of friends and relatives, both boys were taken care of in boarding schools—Philip going to Hershey and Moushegh to Girard College. She worked diligently during these years for Jack Endrigian and was able to visit with both boys on the weekends. Through this work relationship she was introduced to her second husband, Setrag Endrigian. They were married in 1942 and were blessed with a lovely daughter, Victoria, who became the joy of their lives.

Her faith in God never ceased. She read her Bible faithfully and prayed. She was an

inspiration not only to her children but to friends and neighbors. She never gave up throughout the years and felt that God had been good to her.

She has seen all three of her children marry: Philip to Rose, Vicky to Ken and Moushegh to Joyce, and has been blessed with six grandchildren: Alice Paregian Guida, Arlene Paregian-Mangalardi, Valerie Paregian, Yvonne Takvorian, Kenny Takvorian, whom she named Pasha, and Michael Paregian.

She was delighted when two great-grandchildren arrived—Christine and Michael Guida.

She was truly loved by her family. They listened to her advise, sought her wisdom and grew in her inspiration.

She is one of many Armenian survivors. One who has never lost site of her heritage, her faith in Jesus Christ and her love for her fellow man.

ALBERT GAZERIAN



Albert Gazerian of Cairo, NY, died in Catskill, NY, on March 3, 1988. He was born in Ismidt on July 12, 1915. His father was killed shortly before he was born. Albert was two weeks old when most of his remaining family members were massacred along with two million other Christian Armenians.

Albert was educated in Constantinople, Turkey. He came to the United States in 1946 and worked for the American government.

Mr. Gazerian is survived by a sister and brother-in-law, Lusine and Sarkis Tashjian of Catskill, NY, and a cousin, Albert Samuelian and his family.

ELIZABETH S. HAKIMIAN

Elizabeth Stephens Hakimian, 64, of Albany, NY, died on January 7, 1988, in Albany after a long illness.

A native of Albany, she was a graduate of St. Agnes School in Albany and attended Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, Iowa. She was a partner in the Stephens Real Estate

Corp. in Albany and was a member of the Red Cross, the Junior League of Albany, the former Community Chest, the University Club and the Albany Country Club.

She was a member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Albany.

Survivors include her husband, George Hakimian; two sons, Arthur Hakimian of Mechanicville and George S. Hakimian of Albany; three daughters, Alice and Rebecca Hakimian, both of Albany, and Anne Hakimian of Clifton Park; and a brother, Walter B. Stephens of Albany.

The AMAA Board of Directors extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased through the medium of the AMAA NEWS.

Bedoyan, Millia	April 2, 1988
Gardena, CA	
Halvadjian, Rev. Harutune	
Marseilles, France	April 3, 1988
*Buchakian, Hagop	
Glendale, CA	April 4, 1988
*Sunukjian, Sarkis	
Troy, NY	April 5, 1988
*Boghossian, Aram	
Ozon Park, NY	April 5, 1988
George Edward	
Los Angeles, CA	April 6, 1988
Paklaian, Sara	
Southfield, MI	April 8, 1988
*Guonjian, Hartune	
N. Canton, OH	April 11, 1988
*Boyajian, Haigouhi	
Clifton, NJ	April 17, 1988
Jaranian, Sara	
Medford, MA	April 18, 1988
Stone, Nina	
Beverly, MA	April 21, 1988
*Yesayan, Merin	
Tulsa, OK	April 24, 1988
*Yenovkian, Lois	
Fresno, CA	April 28, 1988
Zakarian, Louise Araxi	
Hasbrouck Hghts, NJ	May 3, 1988
*Dadigan, Norma	
Fresno, CA	May 4, 1988
Vartan, Vartanig	
New York, NY	May 24, 1988
*Ketenjian, Yulia	
Pacific Palisades, CA	May 30, 1988
*Chalikian, Edward	
Broomall, PA	June 11, 1988
Hovhannesian, Sirouhi	
Chicago, IL	June 15, 1988
*Shishmanian, Virginia	
Fresno, CA	
Albarian, Assadour	
Pasadena, CA	

***Memorials were designated for AMAA.**

SUGGESTED LANGUAGE FOR REQUESTS

We are sometimes asked, "How can I include the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) in my Will?" Some of the ways in which the AMAA can be included in your estate planning are listed below. In these examples, percentages may be substituted for dollar figures.

GENERAL BEQUEST

"I give and bequeath to the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc. (AMAA), headquartered at 140 Forest Avenue, Paramus, NJ, the sum of \$_____ (and/or the securities or other property described herein, namely, _____) to be used for the general work of the Association as directed by the Board of Directors of the AMAA."

RESIDUARY BEQUEST

"The rest, residue and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, wherever situated, I give, devise and bequeath to the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc. (AMAA), headquartered at 140 Forest Avenue, Paramus, NJ, to be used for the general work of the Association as directed by the Board of Directors of the AMAA."

DESIGNATED BEQUEST

"I give and bequeath to the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc. (AMAA), headquartered at 140 Forest Avenue, Paramus, NJ, the sum of \$_____ (and/or the securities or other property described herein, namely, _____) to be invested or reinvested at its discretion and the income only therefrom may be used for the purpose of _____."

Return this form to: Rev. Moses B. Janbazian, Executive Director
Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc.
140 Forest Avenue, Paramus NJ 07652

____ I have included AMAA in my Will.

____ I plan to include AMAA in my Will.

____ I would like more information.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & State _____ Zip _____

Phone: () _____

WILLS AND BEQUESTS

We have copies available of material on Wills and Bequests, Deferred Giving and Life Income Trusts. Those interested in receiving a copy of one or more of the following brochures please mark the appropriate box or boxes and return to:

**The Armenian Missionary Assoc.
140 Forest Avenue
Paramus, NJ 07652**

- ☐ How to Write a WILL that Works
- ☐ What Difference does a WILL Make?
- ☐ Why All the Bother About WILLS?
- ☐ What Happens if There is No WILL?
- ☐ 37 Things People "Know About WILLS that Aren't Really So"
- ☐ Giving through Your WILL
- ☐ How to Give More by Giving Securities
- ☐ Twelve Ideas from the WILLS of 12 Famous People
- ☐ Living Trusts Can Be Giving Trusts
- ☐ Giving Through Life Income Plans
- ☐ Giving Real Estate
- ☐ There's Will Wisdom in a Testamentary Trust
- ☐ Has Your WILL Expired?

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